

What is claimed is:

1 1. A sales system comprising user mobile terminals, each
2 owned by a train passenger, for storing an in-train merchandise
3 purchase program; salesperson terminals each borne by a
4 salesperson in the train; a merchandise management terminal
5 connected to said user mobile terminals and said salesperson
6 terminals via a network in the train; and a merchandise management
7 server to which said merchandise management terminal is connected
8 via the Internet; wherein:

9 said merchandise management terminal has:

10 means , upon receiving ordering information entered from
11 said user mobile terminal in accordance with said in-train
12 merchandise purchase program, for discerning the payment method
13 and, for transferring said ordering information to said
14 salesperson terminal if the payment method is cash payment; and
15 means , for requesting said merchandise management
16 server to give authentication if the payment method is any other
17 method than cash payment and, for transferring said ordering
18 information to said salesperson terminal if authentication is
19 given; and

20 said merchandise management server has means for settling
21 account with the passenger requiring any non-cash payment method
22 when notified by said salesperson terminal of the completion
23 of a sale via said merchandise management terminal.

1 2. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said
2 merchandise management server has authenticating means , upon
3 receiving a request for authentication from said merchandise
4 management terminal, for checking whether the name and the

5 password contained in said ordering information are identical
6 with the respective ones registered in advance as personal
7 information; for discerning whether account settlement
8 information matching the payment method contained in said
9 ordering information is contained in the pertinent personal
10 information and, for giving authentication if both the name and
11 the password are identical and the account settlement information
12 is registered.

1 3. A sales system comprising user mobile terminals, each
2 owned by a train passenger; salesperson terminals each borne
3 by a salesperson in the train; a merchandise management terminal
4 connected to said user mobile terminals and said salesperson
5 terminals via a network in the train; and a merchandise management
6 server to which said merchandise management terminal is connected
7 via the Internet; wherein:

8 said user mobile terminal has:

9 means for accessing said merchandise management server
10 in advance, for registering personal information, for
11 downloading an in-train merchandise purchase program and for
12 storing it;

13 means for transmitting and receiving data to and from said
14 merchandise management terminal by way of short-range wireless
15 communication;

16 means, at the time of actuating said in-train merchandise
17 purchase program, for acquiring inventory volume information
18 on each merchandise item from said merchandise management
19 terminal and for displaying it on an ordering menu screen; and

20 means for causing ordering information on merchandise to

21 be entered by using said in-train merchandise purchase program
22 and for transmitting the entered ordering information;

23 said salesperson terminal has:

24 means for receiving the ordering information from said
25 merchandise management terminal and for displaying it; and

26 means for transmitting to said merchandise management
27 terminal ordering information pertaining to already completed
28 delivery after the delivery of merchandise to the passenger and
29 sale completion information entered from the salesperson;

30 said merchandise management terminal has:

31 means for managing the inventory volume of each merchandise
32 item;

33 means for transmitting inventory volume information on
34 each merchandise item at a request from said user mobile terminal;

35 means for receiving ordering information from said user
36 mobile terminal and, for requesting authentication by
37 transmitting said ordering information to said merchandise
38 management server if the payment method contained in said
39 ordering information is not cash payment;

40 means, when notified by said merchandise management server
41 of authentication or in the case of cash payment, for transmitting
42 said ordering information to said salesperson terminal; and

43 means for receiving said ordering information and said
44 sale completion information from said salesperson terminal, for
45 updating the inventory volume and, at the same time, for
46 transmitting said ordering information and said sale completion
47 information to said merchandise management server; and

48 said merchandise management server has:

49 means for storing personal information registered in

50 advance from said user mobile terminal;

51 means , when having received a request for authentication
52 from said merchandise management terminal, for checking said
53 ordering information with said registered personal information,
54 and for notifying the result of checkup for authentication; and

55 means , when having received said sale completion
56 information and said ordering information from said merchandise
57 management terminal, for discerning whether the payment method
58 is cash payment and, for settling the pertinent account when
59 it is any other method than cash payment.

1 4. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said
2 personal information includes the name, password, and account
3 settlement information on any other payment method than cash
4 payment, and

5 said ordering information includes the name, password,
6 seat number, merchandise item, volume purchased, sum payable
7 and payment method.

1 5. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said
2 merchandise management server further has means , when having
3 received a request for authentication from said merchandise
4 management terminal, for checking whether the name and the
5 password contained in said ordering information are identical
6 with the respective ones registered in advance as personal
7 information; for discerning whether account settlement
8 information matching the payment method contained in said
9 ordering information is contained in the pertinent personal
10 information and, for giving authentication if both the name and

11 the password are identical and the account settlement information
12 is registered.

1 6. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said
2 short-range wireless communication is infrared ray
3 communication,

4 said user mobile terminal has means for performing infrared
5 ray communication with a seat wireless unit provided on each
6 seat in the train, and

7 said seat wireless unit has means for establishing
8 connection to said merchandise management terminal via said
9 network in the train.

1 7. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said
2 short-range wireless communication is Bluetooth communication,
3 said user mobile terminal has means for performing
4 Bluetooth communication with Bluetooth wireless units provided
5 in the train, and

6 said Bluetooth wireless units have means for establishing
7 connection to said merchandise management terminal via said
8 network in the train.

1 8. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the
2 in-train merchandise purchase program stored in said user mobile
3 terminal includes a plurality of kinds of programs differing
4 in available menus,

5 said merchandise management terminal contains a table of
6 menus in which seat numbers are matched with available menus,
7 and

8 saidmerchandise management terminal has means , when said
9 ordering information has been received from said user mobile
10 terminal, for judging by referencing said table of menus whether
11 the contents of the menu according to which an order has been
12 received from the seat number contained in said ordering
13 information are approved.

1 9. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said
2 plurality of kinds of programs are for first-class cars and for
3 second-class cars.

1 10. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said
2 plurality of kinds of programs are for reserved seats and for
3 non-reserved seats.

1 11. The sales system, as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said
2 available menus include a menu for buying merchandise and a menu
3 for using rental service.

1 12. A merchandise management terminal in a sales system
2 comprising user mobile terminals, each owned by a train
3 passenger; salesperson terminals each borne by a salesperson
4 in the train; a merchandise management terminal connected to
5 said user mobile terminals and said salesperson terminals via
6 a network in the train; and a merchandise management server to
7 which saidmerchandise management terminal is connected via the
8 Internet; wherein:

9 said merchandise management terminal has:
10 means formanagingtheinventoryvolumeofeachmerchandise

11 item; means for transmitting inventory volume information on
12 each merchandise item at a request from said user mobile terminal;
13 means for receiving ordering information from said user mobile
14 terminal and, for requesting authentication by transmitting
15 said ordering information to said merchandise management server
16 if the payment method contained in said ordering information
17 is not cash payment; means for transmitting said ordering
18 information to said salesperson terminal when notified by said
19 merchandise management server of authentication or in the case
20 of cash payment; and means for receiving said ordering
21 information and said sale completion information from said
22 salesperson terminal, for updating the inventory volume and,
23 for transmitting said ordering information and said sale
24 completion information to said merchandise management server
25 at the same time.

1 13. A sales method for use in a sales system comprising
2 user mobile terminals, each owned by a train passenger;
3 salesperson terminals each borne by a salesperson in the train;
4 a merchandise management terminal connected to said user mobile
5 terminals and said salesperson terminals via a network in the
6 train; and a merchandise management server to which said
7 merchandise management terminal is connected via the Internet;
8 comprising:

9 registering in advance with said merchandise management
10 server personal information including the name, password and
11 account settlement information by said user mobile terminal;

12 downloading an in-train merchandise purchase program
13 from said merchandise management server and storing it in advance

14 in said user mobile terminal;

15 transmitting actuation information from said user mobile
16 terminal to said merchandise management terminal when the train
17 passenger has actuated said in-train merchandise purchase
18 program on said user mobile terminal;

19 transmitting the current inventory volume information
20 from said merchandise management terminal to said user mobile
21 terminal when said merchandise management terminal managing the
22 inventory volume of each merchandise item receives said actuation
23 information;

24 displaying an ordering menu screen containing the
25 inventory volume of each merchandise item by said user mobile
26 terminal;

27 transmitting ordering information from said user mobile
28 terminal to said merchandise management terminal when the
29 passenger enters ordering information on the screen;

30 discerning by said merchandise management terminal
31 whether the payment method contained in said ordering information
32 is cash payment;

33 transmitting said ordering information from said
34 merchandise management terminal to said merchandise management
35 server and requests authentication when the payment method is
36 any other method than cash payment;

37 checking by said merchandise management server whether
38 account settlement information matching the name, the password
39 and the payment method contained in said ordering information
40 is registered and transmitting the result of checkup for
41 authentication from said merchandise management server to said
42 merchandise management terminal;

43 transmitting said ordering information from said
44 merchandise management terminal to said salesperson terminal
45 when notified of authentication or in the case of cash payment;

46 transmitting from said salesperson terminal to said
47 merchandise management terminal the entered sale completion
48 information and the ordering information pertaining to the
49 already completed delivery when the salesperson enters sale
50 completion information indicating the completion of delivery
51 of merchandise to the passenger of the seat number contained
52 in said ordering information;

53 transmitting said sale completion information and said
54 ordering information from said merchandise management terminal
55 to said merchandise management server when said merchandise
56 management terminal receives said sale completion information
57 and said ordering information pertaining to the already completed
58 delivery, updates the inventory volume and at the same time;

59 discerning by said merchandise management server whether
60 the payment method contained in said ordering information is
61 cash payment; and

62 settling the pertinent account according to the account
63 settlement information registered correspondingly to the name
64 and the password registered in said ordering information by
65 said merchandise management server when the payment method is
66 any other method than cash payment.

1 14. A program applicable, in a sales system comprising
2 user mobile terminals, each owned by a train passenger,
3 salesperson terminals each borne by a salesperson in the train,
4 a merchandise management terminal connected to said user mobile

5 terminals and said salesperson terminals via a network in the
6 train, and a merchandise management server to which said
7 merchandise management terminal is connected via the Internet,
8 to said merchandise management terminal to cause a computer to
9 achieve processing, said processing comprising:

10 managing the inventory volume of each merchandise item;

11 transmitting the inventory volume of each merchandise item
12 at a request from said user mobile terminal;

13 receiving ordering information from said user mobile
14 terminal and, if the payment method contained in said ordering
15 information is not cash payment, requests authentication by
16 transmitting said ordering information to said merchandise
17 management server;

18 transmitting, when notified of authentication by said
19 merchandise management server or in the case of cash payment,
20 said ordering information to said salesperson terminal; and

21 updating, upon receiving said ordering information and
22 sale completion information, the inventory volume and
23 transmitting at the same time said ordering information and said
24 sale completion information to said merchandise management
25 server as account settling information.